

Amendments have been made to the claims to remove the multiple dependencies in order to conform with U.S. practice. An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

on February 23, 2001

(Date of Deposit)  
Rachel Piscitelli

Name and Reg. No. of Attorney

Rachel Piscitelli

Signature

February 23, 2001

Date of Signature

Date: February 23, 2001

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Respectfully submitted,

Jiro Nagaoka et al.

By

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